(c) whether any assistance has been given to Assam Science Society and its districts branches; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir. Promotion of S&T in Assam as in other States is done through academic, research institutions, State Government organisations and science-based NGOs.

(b) The beneficiaries in each project are well identified sections of the community *viz.* poorer sections of the community, women, school students, etc.

(c) Assam Science Society, Guwahati has been sanctioned action research projects from time to time.

(d) Over the past five years an amount of about Rs. 10.00 lakhs has been released for new and on-going projects to the Assam Science Society, Guwahati.

Projects under STED in Tamil Nadu

1464. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN:
SHRI R. KAMARAJ:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is only 33 locations all over the country where projects under Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development are functioning to undertake training to local youths for enabling self-employment;

(b) the details of such projects, under STED scheme, in Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to set up micro enterprises under STED during the Tenth Five Year Plan in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) STED Project is currently operational in 29 districts of the country.

(b) The STED Project is currently operational in Tamil Nadu in Namakkal and Thiruvallur districts. STED Projects at Tirunelveli, Dharmapuri, Karaikudi and Madurai have completed their duration.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The STED Project in Namakkal and Thiruvallur will promote micro-enterprise development in Tamil Nadu during Tenth Five Year Plan.

Promoting research output

1465. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI EKNATH K. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the research output in India does not match with the sicentific and technical manpower community in India;

(b) whether because of this, India has slipped to the 21st place in 2003 from the 13th place in 2002; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to promote the research output in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The research output in India is commensurate with scientific and technical manpower. Some of the significant achievements of the Scientific Research during the last five years are as follows: (1) Launching of technology mission mode project in the areas of sugar, advanced composities, fly ash disposal and utilisation and bamboo applications; (2) Developed satellites, launch vehicles and application in space research; (3) Developed missiles (Prithvi, Agni-II, etc.), tank (Arjun), pilotless target aircraft (Lakshya), etc.,